GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:657
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
DECLINING POPULATION OF TIGERS IN SARISKA
Deora Shri Milind Murli

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the population of Tigers in the Sariska Tiger Reserves in Rajasthan is on the decline;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) the total population of Tigers at present in the Sariska Tiger Reserves;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to stop illegal poaching activities;

(e) whether the request of the State Government of Rajasthan for re-introduction and reviving the habitat for the big cat has been put on hold; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) to (c) Based on directives from this Ministry, the Wildlife Institute of India has conducted an assessment of status of tigers in Sariska Tiger Reserve, and has reported that there is no evidence of tigers in the said Tiger Reserve. The Special Investigation Team of the Central Bureau of Investigation has also reported the disappearance of tigers from Sariska, primarily on account of poaching.

(d) Steps taken by Government of India for conservation of wild animals including tigers and to prevent poaching are given at Annexure-I.

(e) & (f) The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) was also mandated with the task of suggesting a recovery strategy for Sariska Tiger Reserve, following the disappearance of tigers from the said Reserve. The WII, interalia, had suggested preparation of a detailed species recovery plan and relocation of at least four villages (Haripura, Kankwari, Umri and Kriaska) as a prerequisite for tiger reintroduction, forming part of the recovery strategy. This Ministry has agreed in-principle for reintroducing tiger in Sariska subject to conditions vis-Ã -vis the recovery strategy, on which compliance is awaited from the State.